

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2009

Colonel Muammar Abu Minyar al-Qadhafi
Chairman, African Union
c/o Ambassador Ali Sulieman Aujali
Libyan People's Bureau
2600 Virginia Avenue, NW
Suite 705
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Colonel Qadhafi,

We are writing to urge your support for reestablishing the humanitarian lifeline that the Government of Sudan has severed by its decision to evict 13 international aid organizations and 6,500 aid workers from Darfur.

As you must be aware, this decision puts over one million Darfuris at immediate risk of starvation and other preventable deaths. The organizations which have had their operating licenses revoked provided over 40% of the humanitarian assistance in Darfur. Their contributions simply cannot be replaced by the organizations left operating in the area.

The international community has been steadfast in its desire to end the conflict in Darfur, yet Sudan continues to take actions that only inflame it. Despite the inability of the Sudanese government, rebel movements, and the international community to bring an end to the conflict, the world's largest humanitarian relief operation has served as a lifeline to the Darfuris. Now that lifeline has been put at risk for purely political reasons by the Sudanese government. The Sudanese regime must be clearly and forcefully told that endangering millions of civilians by expelling aid organizations is unacceptable. Its unconscionable action must be reversed.

We find it extremely disappointing that the African Union chose to interject politics into a purely humanitarian issue by opposing a United Nations Security Council presidential statement which called for the reinstatement of the humanitarian organizations expelled by Sudan. The African Union must not accept Khartoum's cynical effort to trade humanitarian access for a suspension of justice. These are two separate and distinct issues, and must remain so. The AU must condemn Khartoum's blatant violation of international humanitarian law, and demand that it reverse its expulsion order.

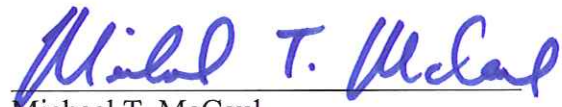
In the past, you have expressed your desire to see an end to the conflict in Darfur. Indeed, the African Union organized the first peacekeeping force for Darfur. The end of the conflict will not be hastened by cutting off aid to a quarter of Darfur's population and leaving more than one million Darfuris immediately vulnerable to disease and starvation.

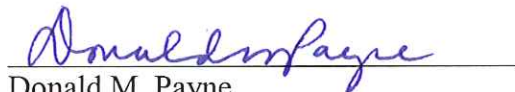
Nor will it be hastened by acquiescing to the Sudanese government's threats against its own people.

The people of Darfur have suffered enough. Please send an unambiguous message to the Government of Sudan that its actions against the humanitarian organizations are unacceptable, and support efforts to ensure that the humanitarian lifeline is reestablished.

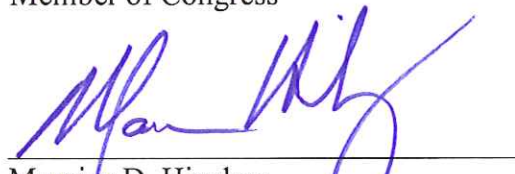
Sincerely,


Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress

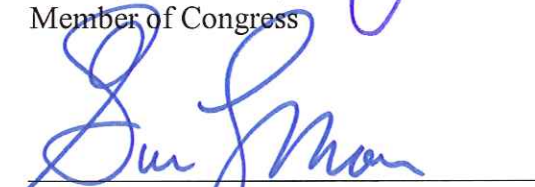

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress

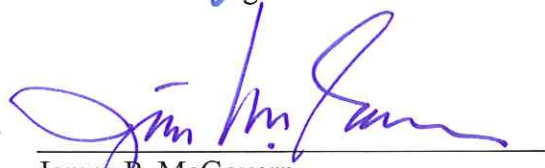

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress


Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress


John W. Olver
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Gwen Moore
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Barbara Lee
Member of Congress


James P. McGovern
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Tom Perriello
Member of Congress


Jim Himes
Member of Congress

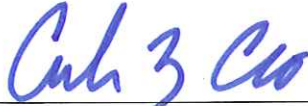

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress




Michael Honda
Member of Congress



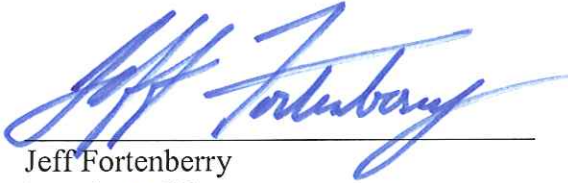
Bob Inglis
Member of Congress



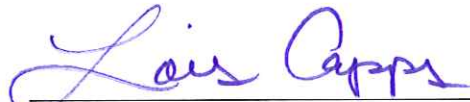
Ahn "Joseph" Cao
Member of Congress



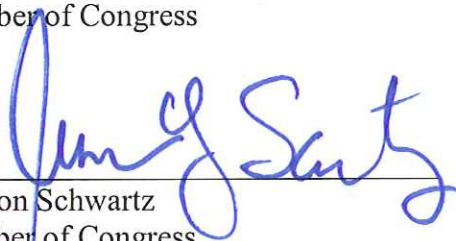
Anna G. Eshoo
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Jeff Fortenberry
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Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress



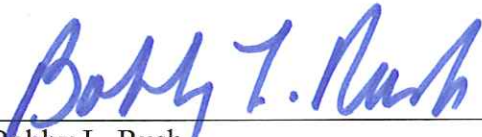
Ellen O. Tauscher
Member of Congress



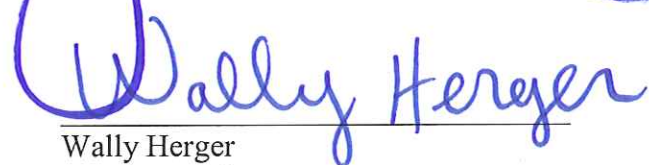
Thaddeus G. McCotter
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Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



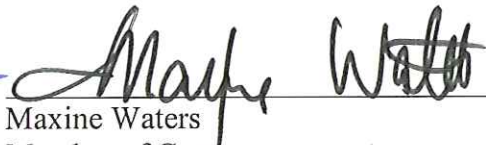
Bobby L. Rush
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Wally Herger
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Eddie Bernice Johnson
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Maxine Waters
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Rosa L. DeLauro
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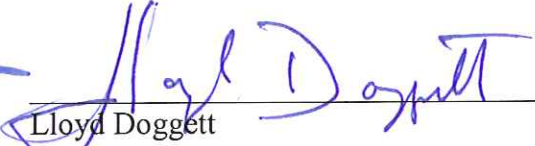


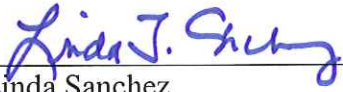
Jackie Speier
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Michael F. Doyle
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Mazie Hirono
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Betty McCollum
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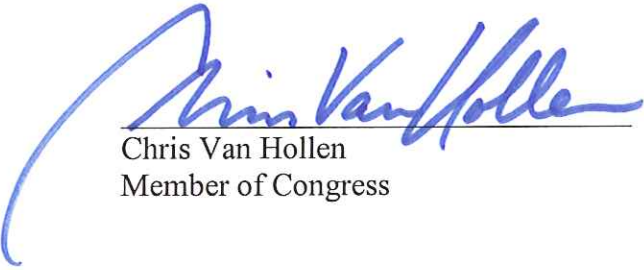

Lloyd Doggett
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Linda Sanchez
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Donna F. Edwards
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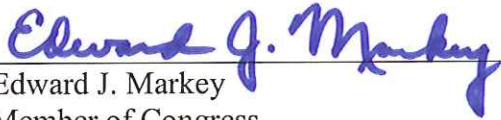

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Trent Franks
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Chris Van Hollen
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Sheila Jackson Lee
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Jerry Moran
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Edward J. Markey
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Carolyn B. Maloney
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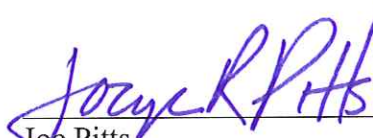

Brian Higgins
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Mike Rogers
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Shelley Berkley
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John Boozman
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Joe Pitts
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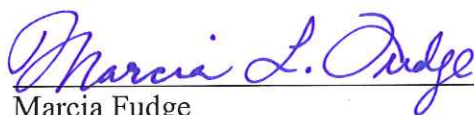
Brad Miller
Member of Congress



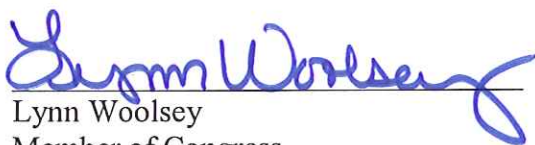
Bruce Braley
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Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



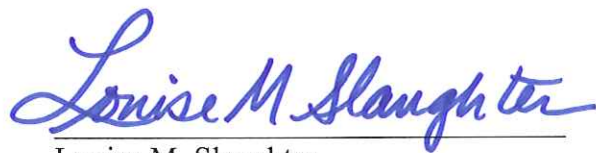
Marcia Fudge
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Lynn Woolsey
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Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



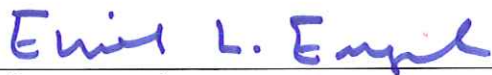
Bob Filner
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Rush Holt
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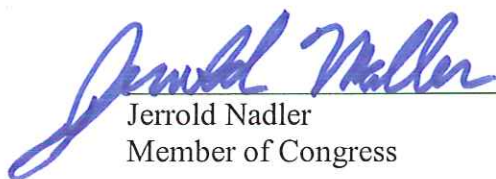
Wm. Lacy Clay
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Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



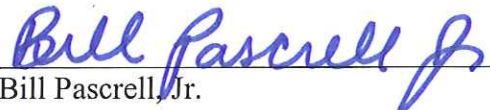
Mike McIntyre
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Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

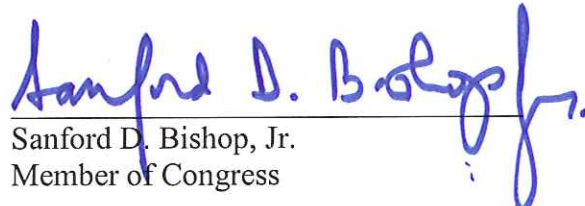


Jared Polis
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress


Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


Steven R. Rothman
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress


Sam Farr
Member of Congress

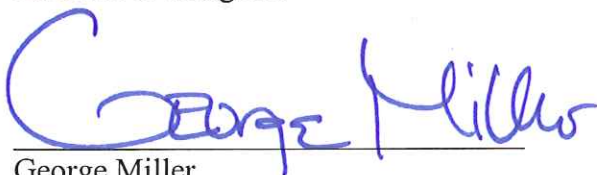

Keith Ellison
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Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

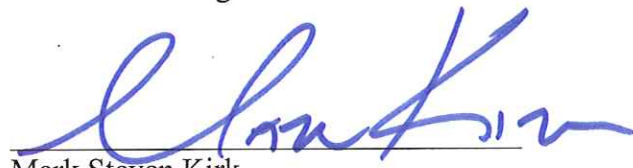

Scott Garrett
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Timothy H. Bishop
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George Miller
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Chris Smith
Member of Congress


Al Green
Member of Congress

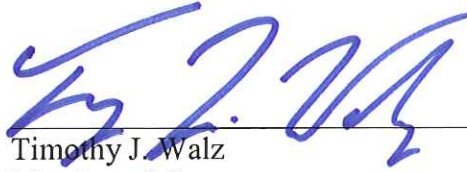

Mark Steven Kirk
Member of Congress


Barney Frank
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Bart Gordon
Member of Congress



William D. Delahunt
Member of Congress



Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress

CC: Member States of the African Union